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DE RUEHLB #0087 0211621
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FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4038
INFO RUEHEE/ARAB LEAGUE COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHVI/AMEMBASSY VIENNA 0068
RUEHUNV/USMISSION UNVIE VIENNA 0011
RHEHNSC/WHITE HOUSE WASHDC
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 3366
RUEHNO/USMISSION USNATO 3573
RHMFIASS/USCENTCOM SPECIAL HANDLING MACDILL AFB FL
RHEHAAA/NSC WASHDC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
RHMFIASS/HQ USEUCOM VAIHINGEN GE

UNCLAS BEIRUT 000087

SIPDIS

DEPT FOR NEA/FO, NEA/ELA
ALSO FOR I/O WARLICK
P FOR DRUSSELL AND RRANGASWAMY
USUN FOR GERMAIN/SCHEDLBAUER
NSC FOR MCDERMOTT

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [AORC](#) [ENRG](#) [IAEA](#) [KNNP](#) [KTIA](#) [MNUC](#) [NPT](#) [PARM](#) [PGOV](#)

PREL, TRGY, LE

SUBJECT: LEBANON: SIGNING ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL AGREEMENT
WITH IAEA

REF: STATE 00322

SUMMARY

¶1. (SBU) Poloff delivered reftel points and text of the USG announcement of the U.S.- IAEA "Additional Protocol" ratification to Oussama Khachab, Head of the Americas Desk at the Lebanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), and Nada Akl, First Secretary in the Department of International Organizations at the MFA on January 16. In a January 20 conversation, Akl told Poloff that she sent reftel points to the MFA's Legal Department and Lebanon's Ambassador to the IAEA, Ishaya Khoury, to ask their opinions on the topic. Akl said she would send talking points to Foreign Minister Fawzi Salloukh after receiving comments from Khoury and the MFA Legal Department. Post recommends USUN Vienna follow up with Ambassador Khoury.

¶2. (SBU) Earlier, in a January 9 meeting, Dr. Bilal Nsouli, Head of the Lebanese Atomic Energy Commission, said in his opinion Lebanon would sign an Additional Protocol agreement with the IAEA. Nsouli said Lebanon had little reason not to sign an Additional Protocol agreement with the IAEA and added that signing the agreement would signal additional cooperation between Lebanon and the UN, noting that Lebanon has signed the majority of UN treaties and agreements related to the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons Treaty (NPT). In a follow-up conversation with Nsouli, he noted that he heard rumors in the past that Lebanon had not signed the agreement because of "political reasons", which we speculate refers to the fact that Israel has not signed an Additional Protocol agreement with the IAEA.

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